

March 7, 2022

Gov. Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) today announced the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting lien subordination applications from broadband providers with existing federal USDA or Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans containing a lien who wish to apply for the current state Broadband Expansion Grant Program application cycle. The current \$100 million application cycle is funded by state bonding authorized by Gov. Evers in the 2021-23 state budget as part of the historic \$129 million investment in broadband expansion in the state budget. Gov. Evers thanks the Biden Administration and USDA for their collaboration in coming to this solution.

Interested applicants with an existing federal USDA or RUS loan containing a lien should review the information required by USDA to be considered for a lien subordination by viewing the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 7, Subtitle B, Chapter XVII, Part 1744, Subpart B - Lien Accommodation and Subordination Policy, §1744.55 - Application Procedures. A link to this section is provided here. Questions about the lien subordination application requirements as well as completed application requirements should be sent via email as early as possible to Joe Bradley, USDA Telecommunications Program, United States Department of Agriculture at joe.bradley@usda.gov.

The current broadband expansion grant application cycle is open until 4 p.m. CST on March 17, 2022. Interested applicants can learn more about the application process here. Questions about this program can be directed to PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov.